

The Army's Memory

Story by LTC Mike Perry and LTC Greg Lane



Upton Hall is the current home of the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. The Institute has been saving and maintaining a variety of written, spoken and photographic memorabilia since 1967.

WHERE in the Army would you go to research an ancestor's military unit and its accomplishments? Where can you find doctrinal literature published by the Department of the Army through the years, including old and hard-to find technical and field manuals?

Who sends out interviewers to capture lessons learned from retiring Army senior leaders? Who requests, collects, preserves and organizes personal papers, manuscripts, photographs and other historical materials for the Army?

All of these missions and activities,



MHI's extensive collection covers the Army's history from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

and more, are part of the daily operations of the U.S. Army Military History Institute.

Located at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., MHI has since 1967 been the Army's "memory bank," saving and maintain-

ing a variety of written, spoken and photographic memorabilia.

Along with the Army's senior history facility, the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., MHI is the foundation of the Army's historical program. The MHI vision is to be the Army's central storage facility for official and unofficial historical materials, including books, written records, photographs and audiotapes of interviews.

There is a wealth of historical information stored at MHI, from the Revolutionary War period to the present day and including both classified and unclassified material. With all this available, who uses MHI?

One large group includes veterans, relatives of veterans and those currently serving in the Army. These

LTC Mike Perry is director of MHI; LTC Greg Lane is a U.S. Army Reserve officer and Army ROTC instructor at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn. Photos were provided by MHI, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Bank

customers usually come looking for information on a relative's former units, links to former units and friends, or a mention of their relatives in available records.

Another group, coming from academia, researches topics for books, research papers or dissertations.

Students from the Army War College, also based at Carlisle Barracks, form a third group that uses MHI. Most visit the institute many times over the course of an academic year, doing research for their studies. These students also conduct interviews with retiring Army senior leaders, adding to the oral history holdings of MHI.

Additionally, these interviews give the students insight into issues and techniques of leadership above the tactical level, especially in the art of indirect leadership.

U.S. Military Academy and Cadet Command cadets may be doing research at MHI in connection with their GEN and Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgway Endowments. And another large group of people visits the institute to study the career of General of the Army Omar Bradley.

Another aspect of MHI is the GEN Harold K. Johnson Chair of Military History, which underwrites a civilian military historian from higher education who provides academic liaison by MHI and the War College with the university community nationwide.

The institute is a popular center for military research, partly because more than a quarter of the U.S. population can reach Carlisle Barracks within just a day's drive from their starting points. And the MHI is near several Civil War battlefields, the most notable being

Gettysburg, about 45 minutes away.

The recent commemorations of U.S. participation in World War II and the Korean War have added to the institute's visitors, because of heightened interest among people who want to know more about those wars.

To continue serving those who study the Army's past, the institute is also looking to its own future. Construction of a new MHI building, set on a 55-acre site recently added to Carlisle Barracks, is slated to begin this year and be completed in the

summer of 2003. The new MHI, a 66,000-square-foot complex, will combine with the Army Heritage Museum — constructed through private donations — to create the Army Heritage Center.

The Army Heritage Center's goal is to tell the story of the American soldier from the 1700s to the present, and to make the American soldier experience "come alive" for center visitors. The new facility will include a variety of indoor and

outdoor exhibits, and is projected to draw up to one million visitors annually.

For all those in or affiliated with the Army family, MHI is a great resource for learning about individual soldier, unit or Army heritage. For those with an interest in American military history, it is a "must" stop when seeking either general or specific information. □

There is a wealth of historical information stored at MHI, from the Revolutionary War period to the present day and including both classified and unclassified material.



Decorations earned by General of the Army Omar Bradley during his long career attract visitors of all ages.



Among the many uniform displays at MHI is this one, which depicts clothing and equipment used by soldiers in the Philippines during the Moro uprising.